

Message Text

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SUBJ: "OBJECTS: USA" CRAFTS COLLECTION COMES TO POLAND.

FOR: IEE, IBS PASS POLISH SERVICE WOZNICKI.

1. FOLLOWING A WIDELY ACCLAIMED TWO YEARS COAST-TO-COAST TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES, "OBJECTS; USA," A COLLECTION OF EXTRAORDINARY OBJECTS IN CERAMIC, FIBER, GLASS, METAL, WOOD AND OTHER CRAFT MATERIALS INCLUDING PLASTICS AND JEWELRY, WILL BE ON VIEW AT THE INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, UL. SWIETOJERSKA 5/7, FROM JULY 11 TO AUGUST 1.

2. RANGING FROM TRADITIONAL TO EXPERIMENTAL, UTILITARIAN TO PURE EXPRESSION, OBJECTS: USA, THE JOHNSON COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS, OFFERS AN ALMOST ENCYCLOPEDIC VIEW OF AMERICAN CRAFTS TODAY.

3. THE COLLECTION WAS ASSEMBLED BY ART DEALER, LEE NORDNESS, ALONG WITH PAUL J. SMITH, DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS, FOR S.C. JOHNSON & SON, INC. OF RACINE, WIS. FOLLOWING ITS UNVEILING AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IT TRAVELED TO MUSEUMS AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS AMERICA, ELICITING POPULAR AND CRITICAL RESPONSE WHEREVER IT WAS SHOWN. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS MORE THAN A HALF-MILLION PEOPLE HAVE

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SEEN THE EXHIBITION.

4. SAMUEL C. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN OF S.C. JOHNSON & SON, INC., SAID THE SHOWING IN WARSAW HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN WARSAW. THE ESHIBIT HAS ALREADY BEEN SHOWN IN PARIS, MADRID, MILAN AND STOCKHOLM.

5. ACCORDING TO PAUL SMITH OF THE WORLD CRAFTS COUNCIL, ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF OBJECTS: USA IS THAT THERE IS NO SINGLE STYLE THAT CAN BE CALLED "AMERICAN"; THE COLLECTION REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF STYLES AND APPROACHES THAT EXISTS IN CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY.

6. THE ARTISTS REPRESENTED IN THE JOHNSON COLLECTION ARE FOR THE MOST PART UNIVERSITY-TRAINED. THEY STUEID WITH PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS AND ARE EQUALLY INVOLVED WITH CURRENT ART MOVEMENTS, BUT HAVE CHOSEN TO WORK IN MATERIALS TRADITIONALLY DESIGNATED AS BELONGING TO THE CRAFTS. WHILE MUCH OF THE WORK IS CLOSELY RELATED TO ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM, THERE IS ALSO AN EXTENSIVE ARRAY OF FUNCTIONAL PIECES IN THE COLLECTION. MANY MANAGE TO BE BOTH AT ONCE, SUCH AS WENDELL CASTLE'S ELEGANTLY CURVING DESK IN WOOD, OR ARLINE FISCH'S SILVER BODY ADORNMENT MADE ON A GRAND, BUT WEARABLE SCALE.

7. "EACH PIECE IS A UNIQUE EXPRESSION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S CREATIVITY -- IN TERMS OF BOTH FORM AND SKILLFUL EXECUTION," SAID NORDNESS. " IN ADDITION TO MAKING A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF ART," HE ADDS, " THIS VITAL NEW GROUP HAS SUCCEEDED IN 'HUMANIZING THE OBJECTS'." NORDNESS AND SMITH AGREE THAT THE MECHANIZED, COMPUTER-ORIENTED SOCIETY OF TODAY BENEFITS FROM THE EXISTENCE OF OBJECTS THAT ARE ONE-OF-A-KIND, MADE FROM CONCEPTION TO COMPLETION BY A SINGLE PERSON.

8. THE 242 OBJECTS IN OBECTS:USA, MADE BY 221 ARTISTS, WERE PURCHESED BY THE JOHNSON COMPANY, A UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPANY WITH A LONG TRADITION OF ENCOURAGING NEW CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS. MANY OF THE PIECES WERE COMMISSIONED FOR THE COLLECTION, WHICH INCLUDES 78 WORKS IN CERAMIC, 58 IN FIBER OR TEXTILE, AND 26 IN GLASS. OTHER MIDIA REPRESENTED ARE WOOD, METAL (INCLUDING ENAMEL AND JEWELRY), PLASTIC AND MOSAIC. THE COLLECTION INCLUDES THE WORK OF BOTH YOUNG AND ESTABLISHED ARTISTS -- THOSE WHO ARE JUST BEGINNING

TO EXHIBIT THEIR WORK AND THOSE WHO WERE OF CONSIDER-
ABLE INFLUENCE IN PIONEERING THE CRAFT RENAISSANCE
IN THE LATE '40'S AND '50'S.

9. THE SCOPE AND DIVERSITY OF OBJECTS: USA HAS BEEN
A DRAMATIC REVELATION TO MOST PEOPLE. THEY REALIZE
THAT THE CRAFTS TODAY ARE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT
THEY EXPECT. THE EXHIBITION HAS GIVEN AMERICAN CRAFTS-
MEN, MANY OF THEM WITH EUROPEAN BACKGROUNDS, AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FIRST TIME TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES
IN ALL MATERIALS IN TRUE RENAISSANCE FASHION.

10. THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM JULY 12 -
AUGUST 1 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 6 P.M. SCHOOL AND
OTHER PARTIES WILL BE WELCOME. THE SHOWINGS OF A
60-MINUTE COLOR FILM, WITH THESE HANDS," WHICH HIGH-
LIGHTS THE SKILLS OF SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING CRAFTS-
MEN, WILL ALSO BE FEATURED.
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